

Galvanized steel prices from one of Arvin Meritor's U.S. steel sources increased as much as 40 percent after April 1 of last year as compared to before the imposition of the tariffs, and the current price is 28 percent higher.

Once, Arvin Meritor had seven facilities in my State, but earlier this year, Arvin Meritor announced the closing of its 317-employee Gordonsville, TN, facility which produces doors, seats, and sunroofs. These are the \$30,000, \$40,000, and \$50,000-a-year good jobs with benefits gone from Gordonsville, TN. This closure and the related reduction of Arvin Meritor's employment levels at its Pulaski, TN, facility, which produces aftermarket parts, they have cut down by 100 jobs. Both those incidents were due to the increased cost of the company's business units attributed in large part to steel tariffs.

A second example, the Dana Corporation, is one of the world's largest suppliers of axles, driveshafts, frames, brakes, chassis, et cetera. The company employs approximately 60,000 people worldwide. On April 1, 2002, Dana employed 3,000 people in facilities in Tennessee. Dana is one of the largest single purchasers of domestic steel in the U.S. with more than 95 percent of its total steel requirements purchased from U.S. steel producers.

Due to its product line, steel is Dana's largest single cost. As in the case of many auto suppliers in Tennessee and across this country, steel represents a large part of the overall production costs of automotive components. So after March 2002, Dana experienced steep price increases on domestic steel ranging from 20 to 50 percent. Coupled with delivery delays and supply restriction, in other words, shortages, the tariffs have forced Dana to begin seriously evaluating a number of steps to limit its exposure to problems arising from steel tariffs.

Among these steps is the use of offshore facilities to produce intermediate and finished products, as well as the active procurement of steel from exempt countries such as Mexico and Canada.

Now, if the goal is to save American jobs, how does it help to cause Dana, a large auto supplier, to move its facilities offshore—those are not Tennessee jobs—and to buy steel overseas? Those are not Tennessee steel producers.

A last example, Dura Automotive Systems, has five facilities in Tennessee, Gordonsville, Greenbrier, Lawrenceburg, Milan, and Pikeville. Dura employs 1,765 individuals in my State. It is the world's largest independent designer and manufacturer of driver control systems and a leading supplier of seating control systems, engineered assemblies, and structural door modules.

Dura is a leading supplier of door and window systems. Dura is an American company that used to purchase 100 percent of its steel from U.S. steel sources, once again, a prominent supporter of this Nation's domestic steel

industry. Dura experienced a loss of \$10 million in 2002 due to the higher steel prices, mainly for hot- and cold-rolled stripped steel, and was forced to increase its steel purchases from the spot market which is even more costly.

In addition, Dura's lead time for deliveries of steel from domestic sources, sources in this country, increased from 10 or 12 weeks to 18 or 20 weeks, adversely affecting just in time the manufacturing process and imposing significant additional costs on Dura.

American automobile companies and companies from all over the world that make automobiles in this country do not want delays in their autoparts. They want them the same day they order them, and if the tariff produces delays, that is just as costly as tariff price increases. Overall, the prices for Dura's required steel have increased by an average of 30 percent since March of last year. The result, Dura is currently considering a number of strategic alternatives such as moving production overseas and sourcing its steel from offshore sources.

That is very bad news to Tennesseans in Gordonsville, Greenbrier, Lawrenceburg, Milan, and Pikeville; 1,765 families who have these good jobs.

Our President, George Bush, is working hard to improve this economy. I am his strong supporter. I believe he is on the right track. I believe his jobs growth plan is working. I want him to succeed. I believe the economy is beginning to recover, and the last thing we need is any new cost on a major segment of American manufacturers that slows this economy's growth down.

I fear if the steel tariffs stay on as scheduled that we will see wave after wave of plant closings in the automobile industry across this State, in Tennessee, Ohio, Florida, Michigan, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, New Mexico, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Washington, and we do not want to see that. So I respectfully hope as the President comes to September and sees this opportunity, he will say: I did my best. I made a good-faith effort to help save those steel-producing jobs. It has not worked. It has backfired. It is the wrong policy, and the best thing I can do for the American worker is to end the steel tariffs.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ALEXANDER. On behalf of the majority leader, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, Montana has been proud to send many of our young men and women over to serve in the Gulf these past few months. As their stories come back to us, we see more clearly the personal side of this war. We see the bravery, the commitment, and the courage of these men and women. Our Armed Forces remain engaged in a complicated, difficult effort, and they continue to carry out their mission with the type of professionalism and compassion that you could expect only from the most dedicated and finely trained individuals.

As I have done before, I would like to take the time this morning to acknowledge a few of the many Montanans we have serving in the Gulf region. It is important that we let them know just how proud of them we are.

I have recently received news that Marine Cpl Chad M. Taylor, of Kalispell, MT, has been awarded the Purple Heart. Chad was wounded last month while serving somewhere between the Iraqi cities of Baghdad and Tikrit. He was riding in an amphibious personnel carrier when it was hit by two rocket-propelled grenades. He has sustained shrapnel wounds in his legs, and he told his folks it would probably take "a couple of surgeries" to put him right.

Chad has not been the only member of his family serving over in the Gulf—his twin brother Bobby is also a marine. The brothers joined up the same day, almost 4 years ago now. Before Chad's injury, both of them were stationed for a time in Baghdad, camping in separate Saddam palaces a few blocks apart. We hear they have seen each other fairly regularly, and once, passing in the streets of Baghdad, were able to exchange a high-five.

The boys' father says it is some relief to know that Chad is now safe, though wounded, but with Bobby still in the field, he remains "on pins and needles." We are all praying for Chad's quick recovery and Bobby's safe return. Hopefully, it will not be too long before this strong family can be back together again, celebrating the service and success of their wonderful boys.

LCpl Mike Tobey is also among those who have been wounded in Iraq. Mike's legs were broken in multiple places when a shell struck his troop carrier during the fighting in Baghdad. How's this for bravery and commitment? When interviewed by reporters he said, "I'd give anything to be back with the squad right now."

Mike's mother Julie lives in Whitefish, MT, and Mike's bravery has really brought the human side of this war into the lives of local residents. Mike has in fact become quite a local media sensation, indicating just how deeply support for our troops runs in Montana.

Maj Patricia Camel Kelly of Ronan, MT, is currently serving as a surgical nurse in the 86th Combat Area Hospital in Iraq. She is working at an Enemy